

ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH

COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

1950



ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
=====

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY
=====

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) ... DANIEL IDRIS EVANS,
Ph.D., B.Sc.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector, Housing Inspector,
and
Certified Inspector of Foods O. R. N. HOSKINS,
M.R.San.I.
(Commenced Duty 19th May 1950)

To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Aberystwyth.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1950.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	1,141.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate).....	10,900.
Number of premises	
(a) Dwelling Houses	2,444.
(b) Hotels etc	36.
(c) Houses and Shops	206.
(d) Offices etc	160.
Rateable Value	£66,104.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£266.
Area comparability factor.	
Births	1.00
Deaths.....	0.85

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1950.

	M.	F.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS :- Legitimate	68	66	134.
Illegitimate	-	1	1.
TOTAL BIRTHS (Live)			135.
STILL BIRTHS :- Legitimate	1	3	4.
Illegitimate	1	-	1.
TOTAL BIRTHS 	70	70	140

	Aberystwyth Borough	Eng. & Wales.
Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	12.4	15.6
Still Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population.	0.45	0.2

3. DEATHS (All causes)

	M.	F.	Total
Total number of deaths	71	63	134.

	Aberystwyth Borough	Eng. & Wales.
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8 Death Rate per 1000 population 12.3 11.6

4. MATERNAL MORTALITY Nil. Nil

5. INFANTILE MORTALITY (Infants under 1 year old)

 All causes per 1000 live births..... 22.2 29.8

6. CAUSES OF DEATH.

Number of Deaths caused by :-

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	3	4
" (Other)	0	0	0
Cancer (All ages)	13	6	19
Measles (All ages)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years old).....	-	-	-
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Heart Disease	26	25	51
Other Causes	31	29	50

7. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Pathological work concerned with the control of diseases was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, and the value of this work is greatly appreciated.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1950.

Disease.	Total Number of Cases Notified.
Small Pox	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	5.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
Puerperal Fever	-
Whooping Cough	24.
Measles	7.
Erysipelas	-
Pneumonia	-
Diphtheria	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	3.
Malaria	-
Meningitis	-
Food Poisoning	-
Poliomelitis	-

9. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

These have remained the same as previously except that the Aberystwyth and District Old People's Housing Society, have started a community house for old people at the "Deva", a spacious house on the sea front. This provides accommodation for about 35 men and women, and its sponsors are to be congratulated for their spirit and enterprise, and deserve the grateful thanks of the Borough for supplying a real need of its citizens.

10. TUBERCULOSIS.

General

6 new cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

None.

New cases during 1950.

Age Group in years	New Cases.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	None.	
1 - 5	-	-		
5 - 15	-	-		
15 - 25	-	1		
25 - 35	-	1		
35 - 45	1	-		
45 - 55	2	-		
55 - 65	-	1		
65 and upwards	-	1		
Total.	3	3	-	-

11. STAFF

During the year Mr. O. R. N. Hoskins, was appointed as Sanitary Inspector, and commenced his duties 19th May, 1950.

Mr. P. M. Jones, Temporary Clerk, terminated his engagement to proceed on a training course on 26th August, 1950.

Mr. Wyndham Jones, Rodent Operator, terminated his engagement to take a post under the Wales Gas Board on the 26th August 1950.

Mr. Gareth James, who had been engaged as a Temporary Clerk, from the date of his Army release until proceeding on a training course, terminated his engagement on 2nd September 1950.

The Office staff being reduced to the Sanitary Inspector, alone until 9th October, when Mr. Denis James, Clerical Officer, commenced duties in the department.

Mr. Cyril Jones, was appointed as Rodent Operator, and commenced his duties in that capacity on 30th October 1950.

12. INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Number of houses inspected	115.
Total number of Houses inspected including re-inspections.....	139.
Number of re-inspections of houses	24.
Number of houses made fit by informal action	1.

13. GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of complaints	109.
Number of visits for infectious disease	19.
Owners or contractors interviewed	2.
Dairies, milkshops and purveyors	3.
Ice Cream premises and barrows	26.
Food Shops, stores and markets	55.
Railway stations re food	2.
Slaughterhouses and knackers yard	205.
Factories - Mechanical -	
Bakehouses	4.
Bootmakers	1.
Dressmakers and milliners	1.
Miscellaneous	10.
Offices	2.
Common lodging houses - day	1.
Tents, vans, sheds or similar structure	10.
Public houses	6.
Water Supply	12.
Tips	3.
Accumulations	7.
Sewers	1.
Drains	116.
Public Urinals	8.
Cesspools	11.
Flooding	6.
Smoke and grit observations	2.
Visits not classified	23.
Number of houses found verminous	3.
Number of houses where vermin was abated	1.
Number of visits to shops	4.

14. DRAINAGE

Drains tested - smoke	1.
" " - chemicals	7.
" " - water	18.
New drains constructed	2.
Drains re-laid or repaired	8.
Drains cleansed	10.

15. W.C.'s.

W.C.'s reconstructed or repaired	1.
Flushing apparatus repaired	1.

16. MEAT.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the animals slaughtered and inspected at the Abattoir during the year were as follows :-

<u>Aberystwyth Abattoir.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of Animals Killed.	809	1263	10,903	174	13,149.
<u>All Diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned,	37	38	56	4	^{Weight.} 16,194 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned,	605	51	2,103	51	15,513 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	79.36%	7.05%	19.7%	31.6%	
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned,	2	1	-	1	1,257 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned,	49	2	-	10	1,475 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	6.31%	.02%	-	6.32%	
<u>Total Weight of meat condemned</u>					<u>34,439 lbs.</u>

The presence of Cyticercus Bovis was discovered in six carcasses during the year and the meat treated by the Ministry of Food in accordance with routine before marketing.

17. FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat and Meat Products condemned (outside Abattoir)

Fresh and canned condemned	265 lbs.
Fish, wet condemned	70 lbs.
Canned and miscellaneous foods other than meat	<u>2,783 lbs.</u>
<u>Total of foodstuffs condemned outside Abattoir</u>	<u>3,118 lbs.</u>

18. WATER SAMPLES

Number of samples taken during 1950 100.

Samples Unsatisfactory.

	Coli: Bac:	Fae: Coli:	Non- Fae:
24. 5.50. Well rear of Dinas Terrace.....	1800+	88	12
6. 6.50. Well in Golf Links	5	40	60
28. 6.50. Well in Penglais Woods.....	35	23	77
10. 8.50. Standpipe in Cemetery.....	25	20	80
10. 8.50. Standpipe in Harbour Buildings ...	25	8	92.
17. 8.50. Standpipe in Harbour Buildings ...	25	0	-
4.10.50. Tap in Garden, Penglais Lodge	25	5	0
12.10.50. Tap from pump, Penglais Fach Farm	250	80	0
12.10.50. Surface Water in field Pengais Fach	130	80	0

Samples Satisfactory.

10. 5.50. Shallow well in Golf Links	2	0	100
3. 8.50. Tap, "Bronywawr", Penparcau.....	2	0	100

Samples Insufficiently Chlorinated.

7. 6.50. Tap, 18 South Marine Terrace	2	0	100
7. 6.50. Bath from tap, 18 S. Marine Terrace	2	0	100
12. 6.50. Tap, "Bay View", Penyranchor	2	0	100
13. 7.50. Tap, "Mayflower Cafe", Terrace Road	8	62	38
26. 7.50. Tap, "Bronywawr", Rheidol Road....	5	0	100
10. 8.50. Tap, "Bay Cottage" Cliff Terrace..	2	100	0
17. 8.50. Tap, 8 Green Gardens, Trefechan...	13	0	-
17. 8.50. Tap, Public Health Laboratory.....	2.	0	-
18. 8.50. Tap, Public Health Laboratory.....	25	0	-
14. 9.50. Tap, Public Health Laboratory.....	5	0	0
13.10.50. Tap, Public Health Laboratory.....	5	0	0
10.11.50. Tap, Public Health Laboratory.....	2	0	0

Small amount of surface contamination.

24. 8.50. Tap in garden, Penglais Lodge	5	0	0
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Summary of Samples.

Highly satisfactory	76
Unsatisfactory	9
Satisfactory	2
Insufficiently Chlorinated.....	12
Surface Contamination. ;.....	1
Total.....	<u>100</u>

19. WATER SUPPLY.

It is necessary to chlorinate the water supply by statutory order in spite of the isolated nature of the source of supply. The present scheme fails to produce a complete success owing to lack of filtration, and some time results in a taint which reduces the palatability of the water. Filtration followed by the proper chemical treatment of the water and safeguarding of the reservoirs from soilage by birds and surface drainage should be aimed at.

Surveyor's report on Water.

"No steps have been taken to improve the filtration of the water supply or towards the covering in of the service reservoirs' during the year.

I have suggested that an additional service reservoir with a capacity of four million gallons should be provided in order to act as a buffer supply in case of possible fractures to the main from the impounding reservoirs".

J. B. McGaw, Borough Surveyor & Water Engineer.

20. ICE CREAM.

During the year numerous samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis. All cases of samples falling into Grades 3 and 4 were followed up as soon as the results were received. An improvement was obtained in all the cases although it is not satisfactory to record any Grade 4 samples.

Number of Ice Cream premises in area of local authority..... 36.

Number of manufacturers of Ice Cream 9.

Hot Mix process 3. (Pasteurising)

Cold Mix 6. (Complete cold mix)

The remaining 27 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream supplied to them by the manufacturers.

During the year 217 samples of ice cream were taken and the following results were obtained :-

Grade 1.		105.	48%)	) 80%
Grade 2.		69.	31%)	
Grade 3.		33.	16%	
Grade 4.		10.	4%	

The general condition of ice cream premises is satisfactory although a number of the older premises are still in need of improvements. With few exceptions considerable co-operation has been experienced with the various occupiers who are anxious to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

21. RODENT CONTROL.

The work proceeded despite change of personnel, in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

Considerable improvement is now being effected in several of the worst area and the number of business premises treated during the year was 15, and the co-operation of the owners and occupiers of property is pleasing to report. No refusal to co-operate or supply information has been experienced and the work has been more effective as a result.

Sewer treatments have been carried out twice during the year but lack of additional assistance meant that the total number of sewer manholes had to be split into town and outer groups and dealt with at different periods.

The treatments were successful and carried out in accordance with the methods laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, and whose officers are most helpful and very co-operative at all times.

Conditions at the refuse tip are still conducive to infestation and consequently the site is visited weekly to endeavour in keeping down infestation to a minimum. During the latter part of the year over 600 were actually found dead in two months.

Other municipal property was treated and both Abattoir and Council Yard, receive regular visits.

After August, there was a period of two months without routine control work, and it is pleasant to report that the continuity is now restored and work is becoming organised and accurate records maintained.

22. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION (PEST ACT 1949).

Number of premises inspected and revisited 35

23. REFUSE TIP

During the year considerable efforts have been made to deal with matters within the control of the Department, and rat destruction has been carried out by baiting on a large scale.

It is however quite obvious that until the top and sides of the tip are covered with soil as they are completed and thereby reducing the exposed surfaces, little permanent abatement will result.

The tip is sprayed by the Borough Surveyor's Dept., employees, for fly nuisances during the summer months, but here also, little value can be put upon such work until proper covering soil is available and also spread daily to exclude flies.

The tip as a whole is not satisfactory from a sanitary aspect and much work is required to reduce its potential and actual nuisance value.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse collection is carried out by the employees and vehicles of the Borough Surveyor's Department, and a system of weekly collection is in force throughout the area.

During the year the Council, decided to exercise the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to the supply of dustbins, and although not yet implemented the decision is hoped to result in an improvement of the present conditions.

24. SANITARY INSPECTORS CONFERENCE.

Bridlington. 11th - 15th September, 1950.

The Sanitary Inspector, attended the conference of the Sanitary Inspector's Association at Bridlington, which was held from 11th to the 15th September 1950. This was the 57th annual conference of the Association and attended by over 2,000 people.

It opened as customary with Divine Service, attended by the Mayor and Corporation of Bridlington, on the Sunday morning.

During the meetings various papers were read, and long and interesting discussions took place on the various subjects which included "Food Hygiene", "Ship Fumigation", "Milk - The Functions of Local Authorities", "Infestation and Rodent Control", "The Impact of Planning on the Englishman's Home", "Smoke Abatement", "Local Government-Education and the Officer" and "The Rat-Proofing of Vessels".

In addition to these papers, the many informal discussions and meetings acted as a welcome refresher on many points of mutual interest and the whole conference was most useful and valuable.



